



PATENT

Atty. Docket No: 2848 (203-3278)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Cummingham et al.

EXAMINER: Diane D. Yabut

SERIAL NO.: 10/618,994

GROUP: Art Unit 3734

FILED: July 14, 2003

DATED: August 17, 2006

FOR: SURGICAL SE SUTURE NEEDLE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- [] Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- [] A verified statement to establish small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- [X] No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	ADDIT. RATE FEE	ADDIT. RATE FEE
TOTAL	20 MINUS 20	=	X 25 \$	X 50 \$ 0	
INDEP.	2 MINUS 3	=	X 100 \$	X 200 \$ 0	
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM			X 180 \$	X 360 \$ 0	
			TOTAL	OR TOTAL	\$ 0
			ADDIT. FEE		\$ -0-

* If the entry in Co. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The Highest No. Previously Paid For (Total or indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

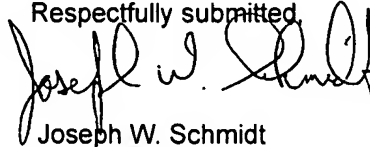
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on date below.

Dated: August 17, 2006

Joseph W. Schmidt

- [] Please charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 in the amount of \$. Two (2) copies of this sheet are enclosed.
- [] A check in the amount of \$ is enclosed.
- [X] Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

Respectfully submitted,



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JWS/td

Appl. No. 10/618,994
Amdt. Dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 17, 2006



PATENT APPLICATION
Atty. Docket No: 2848 (203-3278)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Cummingham et al. EXAMINER: Diane D. Yabut
SERIAL NO.: 10/618,994 GROUP: Art Unit 3734
FILED: July 14, 2003 DATED: August 17, 2006
FOR: **SURGICAL SE SUTURE NEEDLE**

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4 of this paper.

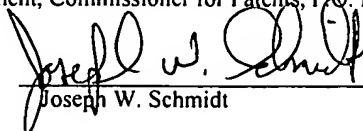
Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 17, 2006.

Dated: August 17, 2006



Joseph W. Schmidt